translation and monographs on Tamil Writers. The Sahitya Akademi has its only sub-office in Chennai to look after the activities in Tamil.

Regional Centre of Lalit Kala Akademi at Chennai has been spending around Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs.20 lakhs per annum for organizing various programmes and maintenance of art gallery and Library of art books.

National School of Drama, New Delhi conducts workshops in various parts of the country under its Extension Programme activities in collaboration with local organizations, institutions and Departments. NSD has conducted such workshops in Tamil Nadu through their Regional Resource Centre at Bangalore.

Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai is an Institution of National Importance. It is organizing various activities for the preservation of traditional values in Indian Art, Classical Dance and Music. Cultural performance and lecture-demonstrations are conducted at Kalakshetra Foundation for the benefit of students. Allocation of Rs. 115 lakhs (Plan) and Rs.225 lakhs (Non-Plan) was made during 2004-05 to carry out its activities.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Culture has provided following assistance to Tamil Nadu under different schemes during last financial year:

1. Scholarship to Young Artists Rs.1,44,000/-
2. Senior/Junior Fellowship to outstanding artists in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts Rs.19,44,000/-
3. Research Support to Voluntary Organizations Rs.3,10,000/-

(c) Does not arise.

Remnants of an ancient civilization in Amreli

1424. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that remnants of an ancient civilization have emerged in Amreli district as the waters of Shetrunji river receded after the recent floods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Sirpur Archaeological Complex

1425. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1500 year old city, complete with a palace, temples, houses and Buddhist educational centre big enough to accommodate 10,000 students has been discovered at Sirpur, in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Sirpur Archaeological Complex is almost four times as big as Nalanda?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The excavations carried out so far at Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, have brought to light remains of an extensive city datable to *circa* 6th-9th century A.D. The city contained, among other things, remains of a large Buddhist monastic complex comprising a sanctum sanctorum, a sixteen pillared hall, and ten monk's cells. The complex has preserved evidence of rich carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha, amorous couples, floral and animal designs besides *kirti-mukh* motifs.There was no discovery of a large educational centre capable of accommodating 10,000 students.

(c) Since the excavations at Sirpur are as yet inconclusive, it will not be appropriate to make comparisons with Nalanda.

Setting up of Science City

1426. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of science cities set up/proposed to be set up in the country together with its aim and scope;